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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 62nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SRIVIHOK (Thailand)
(Vice-Chairman)

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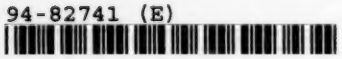

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 96: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued) (A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/307-S/1994/958, A/49/315, A/49/350 and Add.1, A/49/381, A/49/422-S/1994/1086, A/49/593, A/49/712 and A/49/748; A/C.3/49/27; E/1994/31 and Add.1)

1. Ms. HICKS (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that their three Governments were committed to combating international organized crime and hoped that the political support demonstrated at the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime would improve international cooperation through technical assistance projects and the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements. The Political Declaration and Global Action Plan, adopted at the Conference, would serve as a valuable guide for States in devising counter-strategies to address the problem of organized transnational crime.

2. The three delegations were concerned to learn that the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would not be held in Tunis in April 1995. The Congresses were an essential part of the Organization's crime prevention and criminal justice programme and served as a forum for exchanging information and identifying emerging trends in that field. She hoped that the Ninth Congress would be held soon in another venue.

3. The scale of the problem of violence against women justified an in-depth discussion of that topic at the Ninth Congress. Canada had submitted a draft resolution on the elimination of violence against women, for consideration at the Congress, in order to emphasize the role of criminal law in dealing with and preventing violence against women, underscore the link between protecting the human rights of women and eliminating violence against women, and propose specific measures to be taken by Member States and the United Nations in that respect.

4. An effective international crime prevention and criminal justice programme would contribute to progress in other areas, such as economic and social development and the promotion and protection of human rights. Allocation of adequate funding for United Nations initiatives in that area would allow the Organization to respond positively to requests from Member States for assistance and to ensure implementation of existing standards. Accordingly, she urged all Member States to support efforts to improve technical cooperation and assistance to developing countries and countries in transition.

5. Mrs. JUNEJO (Pakistan) said that international efforts to promote cooperation in combating organized crime had not been very successful because countries had different views as to what constituted organized crime. The world community had to adopt a common strategy in order to fight that menace. Her delegation therefore welcomed the Political Declaration and Global Action Plan adopted at the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime in November 1994.

6. Organized crime was causing serious problems in many parts of the world. Improper disposal of hazardous and toxic wastes, pollution of the environment and trafficking in endangered species were of particular concern. A global approach was needed in the application of criminal law to protect the environment. Appropriate policy guidelines for reviewing existing legislation, strengthening criminal justice systems and imposing stringent legal and administrative measures against those responsible for environmental degradation could produce positive results. Although the international community might not be ready to draft an international convention on transnational crimes causing environmental damage, some movement in that direction could lead to the adoption of a common approach and policy framework.

7. Violence against women was a serious criminal offence and required corrective measures. The systematic rape and abuse of women in armed conflicts was a very serious development. The recent establishment of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 was a step in the right direction towards establishing the principle of accountability and individual responsibility for crimes committed during armed conflict. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should provide appropriate assistance to the Tribunal in its work.

8. The capacity of developing countries to take effective measures against transnational crime remained inadequate. Technical cooperation between developed and developing countries aimed at capacity-building in the field of law enforcement could do much to strike at the roots of the problem. Developing countries needed technology for collecting and collating information on crimes related to drug trafficking, environmental pollution and illegal economic transactions. The establishment of computer systems could help in creating an effective international network for exchanging information and taking concerted action. Developing countries required assistance particularly in training police and prosecutors, obtaining modern equipment for tracking criminal activities and training personnel for data collection.

9. Her delegation underscored the need to address the socio-economic inequities which were the underlying factors in most common crime. Appropriate emphasis should be given to assisting developing countries in their economic and social development programmes. The situation in those countries and their special requirements should be taken into account in formulating criminal justice standards. Each society's political, economic, social and cultural differences and moral, religious and ethical values must be considered and respected.

10. Her Government was making every effort to promote and protect the fundamental rights of citizens and eliminate crime by developing an effective legislative framework and improving criminal justice administration. Integrated measures had been taken to deal with the current serious crime wave in Pakistan. The Government had given priority to implementing anti-drug policies through the development of new mechanisms for criminal justice and law enforcement and was giving special attention to combating violence against women. In order to stop

the onslaught of organized transnational crime, crime prevention and criminal justice should be at the top of the United Nations agenda, and consideration should be given to elaborating an international convention against transnational crime.

11. Mr. AL-DERBASTI (Qatar) said that in the last quarter of the twentieth century, there had been an explosion of new forms of regional and international organized crime which threatened the entire world community and made their negative effects felt in many spheres. The most dangerous kind of crime facing the international community was organized transnational crime, and it affected rich and poor countries alike. Such crime threatened the social order and its effects were exacerbated by the illegal drug trade. Efforts would have to be coordinated in order to find the best possible solution to the problem, and the countries which suffered most from combating such crimes would require development assistance.

12. As part of its contribution to the international struggle against all forms of organized crime and in support of the basic principles and values of international society, Qatar had participated in the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held at Naples in November 1994, which had demonstrated the international community's deep concern about, and determination to combat, all forms of crime. Qatar had also supported the Naples Political Declaration and particularly welcomed the determination expressed therein to defend societies everywhere from organized crime in all its forms, through strict and effective legislation. Qatar fully supported the unremitting efforts of the United Nations to find an effective international solution to the problem of crime by promoting the development of societies characterized by mutual understanding, security, justice and peace.

13. Ms. HORIUCHI (Japan) said that an effective crime prevention strategy provided a solid basis for promoting social justice. Japan attached great importance to General Assembly resolution 46/152, which laid down the main principles to be observed and goals to be pursued by the United Nations in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. Her Government was committed to supporting the activities of the United Nations in that field and reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in ensuring an effective response to the growing problem of transnational crime. While it was still premature to draft a convention on the subject, basic guidelines should be formulated to make the work of criminal justice systems throughout the world more consistent.

14. Japan intended to participate actively in the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and hoped that other delegations would support its proposal to consider the question of firearms control. The increasing use of firearms in the commission of crimes reflected the growing transnational illicit trafficking in such weapons by criminal organizations. That issue should be considered promptly in order to reduce the number of crimes in which firearms were used.

15. Insufficient financial and human resources had been allocated to the crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The Crime Prevention and Criminal

Justice Branch should be strengthened institutionally by upgrading it to a division, headed by a director, to enable it to pursue its mandate more effectively.

16. Japan had long been engaged in technical cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, which was one of the best ways of promoting national self-reliance and building institutional capabilities in that area. The new forms of crime that had developed must be addressed on several fronts at once. In implementing the crime prevention and criminal justice programme, cooperation and coordination of activities should be promoted through inter-agency dialogue, especially on the priority themes set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22. Lastly, she reaffirmed her Government's full support for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, which was enhancing the basic well-being of all nations.

17. Mr. TURNQUEST (Bahamas) said that effective action against organized crime must be based on cooperation between States and international organizations. The Bahamas was pleased with the outcome of the recent World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime and welcomed the commitment expressed in the Political Declaration and Global Action Plan to join forces against a common enemy, and the recognition that organized crime, unless properly confronted, might undermine democratic institutions and endanger domestic peace. It was gratifying to note that the Declaration recognized that the international community should assist developing countries in enhancing their capacity to prevent and combat organized transnational crime.

18. Efforts must be made to harmonize legislation against organized crime and provide mutual assistance at the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial levels. In that connection, the Bahamas wholeheartedly supported the proposal by Italy to set up an international task force for the elaboration of proposals on the feasibility of establishing an international training centre for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel.

19. His delegation noted with satisfaction the results of the International Conference on Preventing and Controlling Money Laundering and the Use of Proceeds of Crime: A Global Approach and was studying the recommendations put forward at the Conference. The Bahamas hoped that the question of the venue of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would be settled soon and looked forward to participating in the Congress, particularly in discussing urban, juvenile and violent crime. Every effort should be made to ensure the fullest participation of developing countries in the Congress.

20. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had made significant strides in fulfilling its role as the principal policy-making body for United Nations activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and was to be commended, in particular, for its important work in the areas of improving the administration of criminal justice systems using criminal law to prohibit violence against women and promote environmental protection, and providing technical assistance and cooperation.

21. The Commission's technical assistance and cooperation was especially important for developing countries, whose best efforts to combat crime were often frustrated by the vast resources which criminals had at their disposal. His Government had sought to combat the upsurge in crime, particularly drug trafficking, in the Bahamas by augmenting the police force, enacting new legislation and imposing stiffer penalties for criminal activities. It expressed its appreciation to other countries, in particular the United States, whose cooperation in that effort had proved invaluable. Nevertheless, owing to his country's limited resources, there had not been unqualified success in preventing crime. The Bahamas was particularly concerned about the erosion of the community support system and was trying to find ways to restore that system or replace it with an equally effective mechanism. His Government hoped that it would be able to count on the continued support of the international community in that endeavour.

22. He commended the work of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, particularly in providing technical assistance and professional services to countries, and welcomed the structured changes designed to enhance the efficiency of the Branch. Nevertheless, his country was concerned that the Branch was still hampered by a lack of resources and that no action had been taken to upgrade it to a division. Lastly, the Bahamas was encouraged by the level of cooperation between the crime prevention and criminal justice bodies and the broader network of United Nations bodies whose mandates included crime-related issues, and hoped that such cooperation would continue to be strengthened.

23. Mr. KULYK (Ukraine) said that the growth of crime posed a threat to the social and economic development of States. Crime prevention should be accorded priority; coordinated measures were required at the national, regional and international levels, as was close cooperation between the judicial, law enforcement, fiscal and other authorities of States. The United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme had an exclusive role to play in promoting international cooperation aimed at combating crime more effectively. Technical cooperation projects would considerably expand the capabilities of States in that respect. His delegation supported the idea of reviewing existing methods of international cooperation and expanding operational activities. The provision of timely practical assistance to Governments in the areas of training, consulting and technical cooperation was of paramount importance, especially for the countries in transition.

24. His delegation appreciated the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Its draft resolutions were of great importance for the implementation of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

25. Ukraine attached great importance to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and believed that, in order to be effective, it should consider a limited number of major subjects in accordance with the priorities set by the Commission, the recommendations made in the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, and the conclusions of regional preparatory meetings.

26. Despite economic and social difficulties, Ukraine was taking active measures to combat crime. One of the first steps taken by the newly elected President had been the adoption of decrees to enhance crime control and to control corruption and other economic crimes. Nevertheless, at the current stage, it was extremely difficult for a State to combat crime in all its manifestations through national efforts alone. The nature of criminal activity, especially transnational crime, clearly demonstrated the need to extend and improve international cooperation in combating crime, above all, organized crime. Ukraine was prepared to develop active cooperation with all countries through multilateral institutions and bilateral contacts. Within a short period of time, it had established contacts with the law enforcement authorities of more than 60 countries, and that had already brought results.

27. At the same time, there were still many problems to solve. One of the priorities for Ukraine was the development of a legal framework for such cooperation, in particular the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance between Ukraine and other States. It was also necessary to improve domestic legislation and to adjust it to existing social and economic conditions, taking into account the new types of crime, including money laundering, computer crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal migration.

28. Illegal migration constituted a real threat to public safety, facilitated the growth of crime and the spread of dangerous diseases, and extended the illegal labour market. It was especially harmful for newly independent States. His Government had already considered proposals to amend the existing legislation on State borders, as well as some provisions of criminal law, administrative law and the law of criminal procedure.

29. In line with United Nations priorities in the field of criminal justice and the treatment of offenders, Ukraine was striving to improve its penitentiary system. The Cabinet of Ministers had adopted a special programme to bring up to international standards the conditions of detention for convicts in penal institutions and persons awaiting trial or in custody.

30. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that his country attached great importance to international cooperation in the sphere of crime prevention. He pledged his delegation's complete cooperation with the United Nations and repeated Egypt's offer, made at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, to host the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Cairo. However, adequate human and financial resources would have to be allocated to ensure that the Congress was a success.

31. Egypt was careful to respect due process of law, believing, as it did, in the supremacy of the law and that justice was fundamental to stability. His country was also working to reinforce traditional and Islamic values, which insisted on respect for human rights, dignity, property and the family, and was guided by those values in its approach to crime prevention.

32. The World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples in November 1994, and its Political Declaration and Global Action Plan reflected the international community's united stand against rising levels of crime. The Conference had also been an important part of the preparations for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

33. Regional cooperation made an important contribution to national crime prevention efforts. Egypt therefore supported the concern expressed by the Secretary-General that funds should be provided to the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, because of the important role it had to play in so many fields. His delegation had studied the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/49/593 and noted the energy with which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was tackling the design of policies for international cooperation in the field of crime prevention. He also noted with appreciation the efforts made by the Economic and Social Council to implement crime prevention and criminal justice policies.

34. Mr. HAKIM (Bangladesh) said that his delegation agreed that the rapid growth of crime threatened the stability of societies in both developed and developing countries. Crime control and prevention were major challenges to national Governments and the international community. In view of the rapid growth of organized crime and transnational crime in recent times, most developing countries were facing an uphill task. The problem of lack of resources was often compounded by the need for access to costly new technology. In most cases, organized crime lords and transnational criminals had better access to resources and technology than the Governments of many developing countries.

35. His delegation agreed that national efforts to combat crime could be effectively supplemented by international mechanisms, which should be strengthened in order to assist States and should pursue joint strategies for combating transnational crimes.

36. It was alarming that, along with typical transnational crimes such as money laundering and the illegal arms and narcotics trades, sinister crimes involving human beings as commodities, such as trafficking in aliens, women, children and human organs, were on the increase. That called for stronger condemnation and concerted international efforts to fight them. His delegation welcomed the outcome of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime; the adoption by 142 States of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime truly signified the resolve of the international community to deal effectively with organized transnational crime. He hoped that the General Assembly would approve the Naples Declaration and Global Action Plan and that Member States would implement them urgently. His delegation also welcomed the proposal to establish an international task force for the elaboration of proposals on the feasibility of establishing an international training centre for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel.

37. His delegation noted with deep concern that crime against women and children was on the increase. In Bangladesh, the criminal justice system was being reformed, and legislation had been enacted to deal adequately with such crime; that legislation provided for maximum punishment for crimes against women and children. Bangladesh was also cooperating in combating transborder crime in the context of the Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

38. Crime thrived on poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment, and lack of education, shelter and opportunities. Adequate social development could be the best possible crime prevention measure in all societies. The eradication of poverty, the removal of social inequalities, the generation of employment, education and the strengthening of family bonds and values could help prevent crime. His delegation therefore hoped that the World Summit for Social Development would have a positive impact on the battle against crime.

39. Institutional arrangements for criminal justice should be strengthened at both the national and the international level, while recognizing that the need for such measures could vary from country to country. The expansion of international cooperation in the areas of technology, training and information-gathering was very useful. His delegation therefore hoped that the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and the crime prevention and criminal justice programme would be further strengthened to enhance global cooperation against crime.

40. Mr. OSMAN (Sudan) said that more effective methods of crime prevention should be tied to social planning and must be based on the spiritual, moral and religious values of society. The family was of primary value in upholding those values. His Government had demonstrated its understanding of the importance of dealing with the causes of crime when it had established the Ministry of Social Planning. That Ministry had channelled millions of Sudanese pounds towards providing poor families with means of production, thereby raising their standard of living and supporting national productivity. Because of its importance as a stabilizing factor, the State supported the institution of marriage through youth organizations and a social fund.

41. His Government supported other areas such as education, housing, rural development and job creation which also helped to prevent crime. Sixteen new universities had been opened in the past four years. Throughout the country, town plans had been prepared according to United Nations human settlements guidelines. To prevent urban overcrowding, which was linked to a rise in the level of crime, reverse migration was being encouraged through the provision of educational and job opportunities in rural areas. An appropriate judicial apparatus was an important element of crime prevention. His Government had therefore organized, at the beginning of 1994, a conference attended by the country's foremost legal practitioners and experts. The proposals put forward at the conference, which his Government intended to incorporate into judicial policy, were expected to reduce crime significantly. Penal codes should include appropriate punishments for each crime, including the death penalty, as an important deterrent. His Government had instituted educational and training

programmes in prisons in order to rehabilitate prisoners and enable them to earn an honest living upon their release. It also encouraged non-governmental organizations to play an important role in crime prevention.

42. His country had participated in the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples in November 1994, and had helped to draft the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime. Developing countries sometimes became a theatre of organized transnational crime, not because of the inadequacy of their legal systems, but because they had insufficient mechanisms and resources to combat such crime. Such countries must be given technical and material assistance in that sphere. International cooperation, including the sharing of information and experience and the extradition of criminals, was essential in order to deal with organized transnational crime, especially drug trafficking and international terrorism. The Sudan had demonstrated its commitment in that respect by extraditing the international terrorist "Carlos". It fully agreed that rising crime levels posed a disturbing threat to both the development process and society. Criminal activity must be countered with powerful legal and penal systems which, at the same time, respected human rights, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms.

43. Mr. REZVANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, throughout history, different means of combating crime had been devised, but none had succeeded in eliminating it. Religions had likewise suggested ways to prevent crime. Islam held that unwavering faith deterred believers from committing crimes, hence its rules pertaining to crime and moral standards, including the prohibition of alcohol and gambling. Capital and other forms of punishment for serious crimes were also effective deterrents. Adherence to Islam was an important factor in the reduction of crime in Iran.

44. Progress in science, technology and communications had increased the potential for crime at the national and international levels and crime prevention thus depended to a great extent on international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations. Iran was an active member of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and welcomed the convening of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime.

45. His country's firm commitment to crime prevention was reflected in its Constitution. A task force on crime prevention was currently working on draft legislation intended to monitor law enforcement more closely and improve the administration of justice, while encouraging training, rehabilitation and better lifestyles for former prisoners.

46. Iran believed that a large proportion of crime was due to illicit drug trafficking and drug addiction. It had therefore enacted legislation to prohibit the cultivation of poppy flowers on its territory. Unfortunately, because of its geographical location, Iran was often used by drug traffickers as the shortest overland route to Europe. The Government had therefore earmarked substantial funds for the strengthening of its eastern borders. Experience had also shown the importance of effective law enforcement in combating drug

trafficking. To render its efforts in that area more effective, Iran had sought closer cooperation with neighbouring countries.

47. Iranian legislation prescribed specific punishments for offenders, to act as a deterrent against illicit drug trafficking. Certain countries with ulterior motives labelled such punishments as human rights violations. Such accusations came at a time when his country was doing its utmost to halt organized crime and eliminate the transnational cartels involved in drug trafficking, in accordance with article 4 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1988. In that connection, Iran was cooperating with other member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), with neighbouring countries such as Pakistan under regional agreements, and with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

48. With regard to the relevant United Nations bodies, he recommended further coordination and cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in order to avoid any duplication of effort and improve their overall efficiency. The activities of the African and the Asia and the Far East Institutes for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had proved useful. He therefore proposed the establishment of a similar institute in Tehran, to complement efforts under way to develop action-oriented policies for the region. Greater cooperation and exchanges of information with Interpol were also essential in combating organized crime.

49. The torture and rape of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the systematic violence against women in Palestine were other forms of organized crime. The failure of the international community to put an end to such acts pointed to the legal and moral bankruptcy of those who made international policy decisions on the issue.

50. Criminal law could also play a role in protecting the environment. His country had included environmental laws in its penal code in order to tackle certain issues. His delegation believed that international cooperation in that area was fundamental and eagerly awaited the assistance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in developing and implementing a project on the role of criminal law in protecting the environment of the Caspian Sea. In conclusion, he reiterated his Government's readiness to pursue its cooperation with the United Nations crime prevention bodies, as well as its support for the efforts of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in combating crime and upholding the principles of criminal justice.

51. Ms. MSUYA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that organized transnational crime had become the most serious problem for many Governments and was threatening the very foundations of economic development and national and international security. Her delegation welcomed the outcome of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime; the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against organized Transnational Crime would help improve joint efforts at the global level in the fight against

transnational crime. The Conference had underlined the need for States to improve financial and other assistance for programmes in developing countries and countries in transition and to mobilize funds for programmes to fight organized crime.

52. Her delegation noted with concern the financial difficulties facing the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Kampala, Uganda. Despite those difficulties, the Institute had accomplished all its tasks for 1993, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/712). The Institute's precarious financial situation was caused by the inability of most member States to fulfil their obligations because of the chronic difficulties facing most African countries. Furthermore, the United Nations Development Programme, which had been the main source of funding for the Institute, had indicated that its support would be completed in 1994, although consultations were still continuing. African Governments clearly wanted the Institute to continue operating as a viable and effective instrument for regional cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice. Her delegation therefore appealed to the international community to provide financial support for the Institute, bearing in mind the growth of transnational crime and the decreasing capacity of African States to fully fund the Institute on their own.

AGENDA ITEM 97: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/49/L.64-66, 68-71)

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.64, entitled "Proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women"

53. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77, said that it was based on Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/51, the terms of which were summarized in paragraph 5. Since the Economic and Social Council resolution had been adopted by consensus, he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted in the same fashion.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.65, entitled "Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women"

54. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was intended to provide an update on the progress made in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. That was particularly important at the current session, since nearly 10 years had elapsed since their adoption. The recent noteworthy developments mentioned in the draft resolution included the publication of the executive summary of the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development; the success of the regional preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women; and the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The draft resolution also specified the kind of follow-up that would be required after the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the relevant United Nations machinery for that purpose. Since an effort had been made to incorporate suggestions made by a number of delegations, he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.66, entitled "Integration of older women in development"

55. Mrs. ALVAREZ (Dominican Republic), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Saint Lucia, said that in the fourth preambular paragraph the words "Calling attention to" should be replaced by "Bearing in mind". Furthermore, operative paragraph 3 should be shortened to end with the phrase "takes into account all stages of life". The purpose of the draft resolution was to draw attention to the fact that by the year 2025, the number of older women in the world would have tripled and 70 per cent of them would be living in developing countries. Consequently, the United Nations was invited to take into account women of all ages in its strategies and programmes for the advancement of women. It was further requested that the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women consider the contribution made by older women to development. She hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.68, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women"

56. Mr. NERVIK (Norway) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Ethiopia, India, Italy, Namibia and Nicaragua. He urged all countries to accede to the Convention, which was a key international human rights instrument in promoting equality between men and women. In so doing, States were encouraged to limit any reservations to the Convention and to ensure their compatibility with the object and purpose of the instrument and the provisions of international law. Likewise, States parties should review their reservations regularly with a view to their withdrawal, so as to allow full implementation of the Convention.

57. Referring to operative paragraphs 6 to 9 and 16, he stressed the need for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to be given additional meeting time and adequate Secretariat support, within existing budgetary resources if possible, in order to fulfil its mandate more effectively. States parties were consequently requested to meet in 1995 in order to consider the review of article 20 of the Convention. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

Draft decision A/C.3/49/L.69, entitled "Consideration of the request for the revision of article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women"

58. Ms. LAHNALAMPI (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the draft decision was closely linked to draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.68. In accordance with article 26 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, such a decision must be adopted to allow the revision of article 20, paragraph 1, of the instrument. After outlining the dual objective of the draft decision, she expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.70, entitled "Violence against women migrant workers"

59. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the original sponsors and Pakistan, said that the draft resolution was intended to protect women migrant workers, who were generally women from the developing world who went to more affluent countries in search of better paying jobs, only to find themselves working in conditions of near slavery and subject to physical violence and various forms of abuse. Although in recent years there had been some improvements, in certain respects the situation of such women had deteriorated. The international community must therefore remain vigilant and continue to seek ways of helping such women, through closer cooperation between countries of origin and host countries as well as greater assistance by United Nations agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations. She hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.71, entitled "Traffic in women and girls"

60. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, said that negotiations were still under way on the draft resolution but that she wished, none the less, to provide some information on its basic purpose and contents. The illicit or clandestine movement of women, girls and even young boys, usually from developing countries or economies in transition to more affluent nations, had recently increased because of the downturn in the world economy. Such persons were forcibly recruited or persuaded through duplicity, deceit or debt bondage into sexually and economically exploitative and sometimes life threatening situations for the sole profit of those recruiting them or of traffickers who were normally organized in syndicates. The trafficking of women was generally for two purposes: prostitution, sexual tourism and arranged marriages, on the one hand, and clandestine or undocumented domestic work, on the other. The draft resolution was primarily concerned with the former. The intention was to create greater awareness about the scale of the problem and the brutality inflicted on its victims, and to call for a concerted effort by the international community to seek ways of curbing or eliminating it.

61. Turning to the text of the draft resolutions, she drew attention to the second preambular paragraph, which listed the international legal instruments that covered the problem of trafficking. Operative paragraphs 2 to 5 also made mention of a number of relevant recommendations, including those of the recent International Conference on Population and Development.

62. As already recognized by many international forums, the violence and exploitation involved in the trafficking of women constituted flagrant human rights violations. The General Assembly was the body most competent to address the problem effectively. It must therefore rise to the challenge and prevent further suffering. She hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.72, entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat"

63. Mr. RATA (New Zealand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ukraine and Yemen, said he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 100: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (A/C.3/49/L.49, L.54, L.56, L.57, L.59, L.60)

(c) HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES (A/C.3/49/L.58, L.61)

(d) COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION (A/C.3/49/L.36/Rev.1, L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.36/Rev.1, entitled "Increased coordination within the United Nations system in the field of human rights"

64. Mr. KULYK (Ukraine) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Ireland and the United Kingdom. The following revisions had been made to the text: in operative paragraph 1, the words "continue to" had been added after the words "Human Rights to," and in operative paragraph 6, the words "as a sub-item" had been deleted. Noting that the adoption of the draft resolution would strengthen the appropriate machinery for enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, he said that the resolution touched on problems that were quite sensitive for many delegations; the sponsors were therefore prepared to hold consultations with all interested delegations in order to improve or amend the text. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.49, entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance"

65. Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Argentina, Georgia, Germany and New Zealand, and notified the Committee that Morocco no longer wished to sponsor the draft resolution. The fifth preambular paragraph had been reworded and shortened to read: "Recalling article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,". The content of the draft resolution had been discussed with a number of interested delegations and he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.54, entitled "Summary or arbitrary executions"

66. Ms. LAHNALAMPI (Finland), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Albania, the Czech Republic, Israel, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova and Slovakia, said he hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.55, entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action"

67. Mr. THEUERMANN (Austria) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Estonia, France, Georgia, Guatemala, Israel, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Namibia, Norway, Peru, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. His delegation was in the process of concluding its consultations with interested delegations on the exact wording of the draft resolution. He hoped that the agreed changes to the text would be submitted in the near future and that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.56, entitled "Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities"

68. Ms. KEPPLER (Austria) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Guatemala, Greece, Kazakhstan, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Drawing particular attention to operative paragraph 2, she said she hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.57, entitled "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances"

69. Mr. POINSOT (France), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors, Israel and Mauritius, said he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.58, entitled "Situation of human rights in Kosovo"

70. Mr. KULLA (Albania), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Djibouti, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Maldives, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America, said that the draft resolution dealt with the grave human rights situation in Kosovo, emphasizing in particular the massive violations of human rights and the use of police violence and mass discrimination against the Albanians of Kosovo by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

71. The draft resolution was based on the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/76 and General Assembly resolution 48/153.

72. Paragraph 3, subparagraph (d), should be amended to read "Reopen the cultural and scientific institutions of the ethnic Albanians", and in subparagraph (e), the word "resume" should be changed to "pursue".

73. As pointed out in the latest report of the Special Rapporteur (A/49/641), the situation in Kosovo continued to deteriorate. The massive repression and brutal, systematic violations of human rights committed by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) had resulted in mass terrorization of the Albanian population in Kosovo. That situation demanded immediate attention in order to prevent a further deterioration and help end human rights violations and establish normalcy in Kosovo. The adoption of the draft resolution would be an important contribution to that goal.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.59, entitled "Strengthening of the rule of law"

74. Mr. LINDRGEN (Brazil) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Argentina, Botswana, Costa Rica, Israel, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The following revisions had been made to the text: the first preambular paragraph had been reworded to read: "Recalling that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms". In the third preambular paragraph, the word "also" had been added after the word "Convinced". Operative paragraph 4 had been reworded to read: "Expresses its deep concern at the scarcity of means at the disposal of the Centre for Human Rights in order to fulfil its tasks." Operative paragraph 5 had been reworded to read: "Notes that the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation does not count on capital assistance funds to provide any substantial financial assistance to national projects that have a direct impact on the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law in countries that are committed to these ends but which face economic hardship." Operative paragraph 6 had been reworded to read: "Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities of obtaining the necessary capital assistance funds from the financial institutions of the United Nations system". Operative paragraph 7 had been deleted entirely. He hoped that the revised draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.60, entitled "Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat"

75. Mr. VASSILAKIS (Greece) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Benin, Canada, Gabon, Guinea, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, New Zealand, the Philippines and Suriname. In the second preambular paragraph, the words "of high importance to" had been replaced by "a priority activity of". He drew particular attention to the recent establishment of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and expressed the hope that, since the draft resolution had been the subject of intensive consultations designed to accommodate all points of view, it would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.61, entitled "Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia"

76. Ms. SAPCANIN (Bosnia and Herzegovina), introducing the draft resolution, said that Australia, Botswana, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Senegal had become sponsors. The draft resolution was based on numerous reports by expert commissions and human rights organizations that had documented rape as a form of ethnic cleansing and a weapon of war in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Owing to the social stigma attached to it, rape was among the least reported crimes throughout the world, even in peace time. The reluctance to report rape was increased by war, especially if the perpetrators were soldiers or groups of civilians acting at the behest of a regime in pursuance of a doctrine that used rape or sexual abuse as a matter of policy.

77. The drafters of the text had been guided by instruments in the field of human rights and international law designed to deter violence against women, wherever it occurred, and to prevent further traumatization. The draft resolution welcomed the fact that the proceedings of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 had begun and encouraged the provision of all resources necessary for the Tribunal's work.

78. Accountability for crimes, within the framework of the Tribunal, was of critical importance. The voices of victims and witnesses must be heard. Support and protection for female victims must be provided by other women. Particular emphasis must be placed on the prevention of further victimization, measures for the physical and mental rehabilitation of rape victims and concern for their welfare. There was also grave concern about the situation of women and other vulnerable groups in areas to which the Special Rapporteur and other senior United Nations officials had been denied access. Unless steps were taken to halt those crimes, protect the victims and vigorously pursue efforts to ensure legal accountability for the brutality, there was every reason to fear that such violence against women would continue. Lastly, the sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.